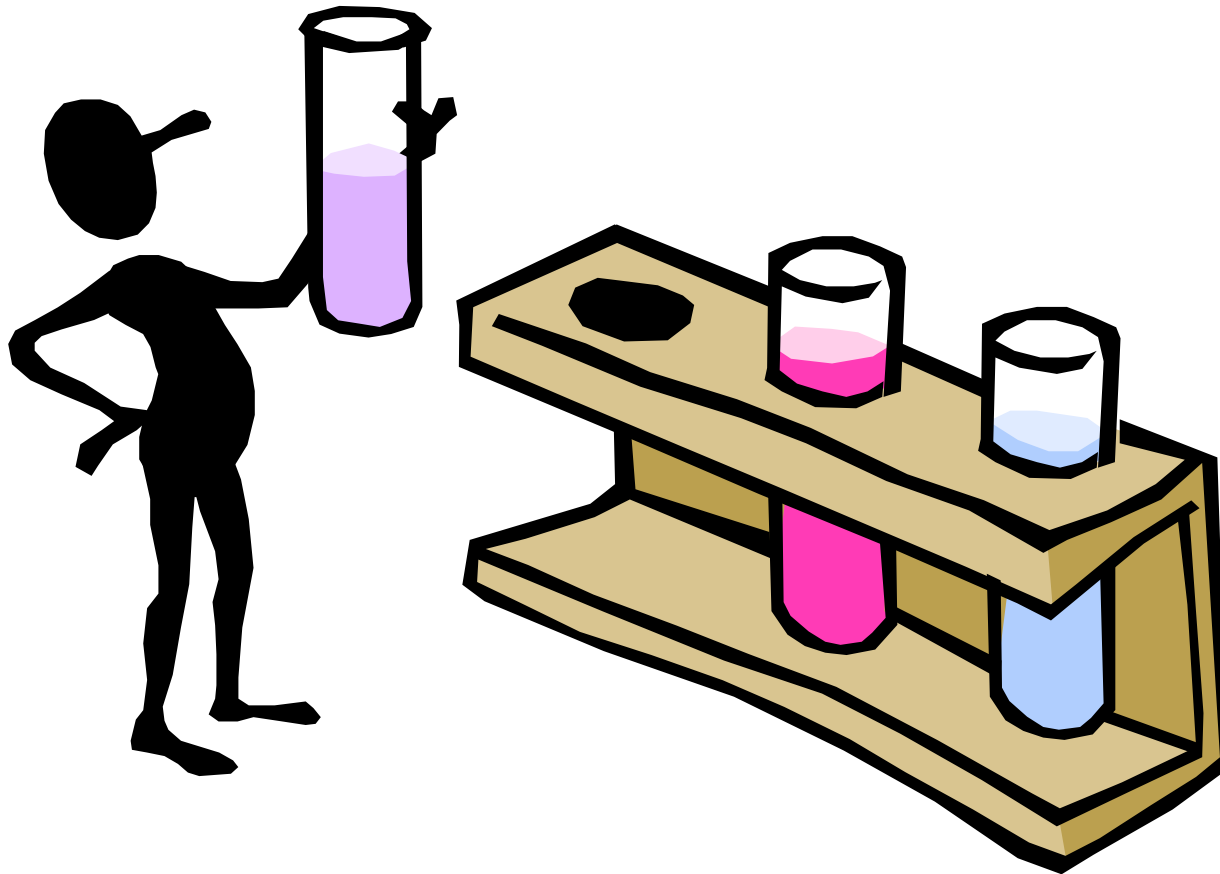


Helping Students get Advanced Training



Advanced training programs

- professional programs, e.g.,
 - medical school
 - veterinary school
- master's programs
- doctoral programs

What grad school is not

- 4 more years of college
- quick access to a high paying job
- what you do after college

What is grad school is

- training in research, critical thinking
- long, hard work
- includes
 - courses
 - exams
 - research
 - thesis

Affording doctoral training

- tuition
- health benefits
- living expenses
 - travel
 - supplies
 - food and rent
 - other

Affording doctoral training

- tuition
 - health benefits
 - living expenses
 - travel
 - supplies
 - food and rent
 - other
- scholarship
provided
- \$14,000 – 17,000
stipend

Selecting a training program: Key variables

1. faculty

- how many share student' s interests
- quality of their research
- ability as educators

Selecting a training program: Key variables

2. training program

- requirements
- quality of courses
- time to PhD
- record of recruitment *and* retention

Selecting a training program: Key variables

3. students

- quality
- quantity
- diversity
- outcome

Selecting a training program:

Key variables

4. financial aid

- amount
- duration

Selecting a training program:

Key variables

- faculty
- training program
- students
- financial aid

Learning about graduate programs

- program literature
 - hard copy
 - web pages
- talking to faculty mentors
- visiting

Applying to graduate school: Different than college

- number of applicants
- number of acceptances
- composition of admissions committee
- formality of application process

What will the admissions committee see?

- application
- samples of work
- transcript
- GRE scores
- letters of recommendation
- student (if possible)

What will the admissions committee see?

application

- must be neat
- required essay
 - show that student + program = good match
 - demonstrate good communication skills
 - student should write on own *but* get feedback

What will the admissions committee see?

samples of work

- research abstracts and papers
 - published
 - unpublished
- term papers

What will the admissions committee see?

transcript

- all courses and grades

What will the admissions committee see?

letters of recommendation

- select persons carefully
- help them demonstrate they know student
- help them remember to send it

Other ways students can strengthen application

- contact 1-2 specific faculty members
 - describe self
 - indicate interest in their work – and why

Other ways students can strengthen application

- apply for a national fellowship
 - National Science Foundation
 - National Institutes of Health
 - Howard Hughes
 - others

So many schools so little time – and money

- apply to a number of schools
 - about half a dozen
 - vary degree of selectivity
- application fees: can ask for waiver

Student preparation to visit a training program

- learn about them
 - program
 - faculty
- specify who they want to see
- ask for itinerary, prepare
- practice answering questions
- make a list of their questions

Visiting a training program

- dress appropriately
 - be traditional, conservative
 - objective: to be taken seriously
- meet faculty and students
- look over school and area
- interview them
- say thank you

Interviewing

- shake hands
- smile – and mean it!
- be polite
- sit up straight
- look at the interviewer
- provide brief, direct answers
- say thank you

Interviewing

things for students to remember

- they will always be “on”
- they were *selected* to be there
- this is chance to provide and *get* info

What a student can do *now*

- take stock of strengths and weaknesses
- improve their record
 - courses
 - research
 - communication skills
 - social skills

What a student can do *now*

- establish set of mentors
 - to provide feedback
 - to give advice
 - to write letters of recommendation

Making a final decision

- collect additional information
- contact potential mentors
- visit a 2nd time if necessary
- make up balance sheets